

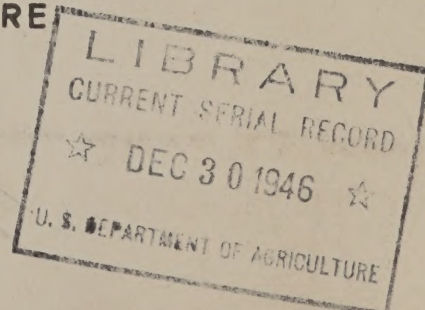
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**EXTENSION  
INSTITUTE *on***  
***Today's Home Builds  
Tomorrow's World***

MAY 7, 1946 • JEFFERSON AUDITORIUM  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.







Proceedings of Extension Institute on

TODAY'S HOME BUILDS TOMORROW'S WORLD

Jefferson Auditorium, United States Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C., May 7, 1946

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## Foreword

The Extension Institute of May 7, 1946, on the theme, "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World," carried forward the pilot-type conference plans inaugurated last year. The first of these conferences was held in January 1945, before the end of the war. At that time the immediate need was for production, but there was an undercurrent of thinking among many groups and individuals of what lay beyond. It was felt that to meet the problems which would surely face a free agriculture and a free country, some way must be developed for different groups to exchange viewpoints and understand one another's aspirations and problems.

With these thoughts in mind, the Extension Institute was planned with representatives of national farm, labor, business, welfare, and religious organizations taking active part. Able speakers for the CIO, AFL, Railway Executives' Association, United States Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Farmers' Union, the Grange, and other groups showed wide divergence on some things but remarkably close agreement on others.

Carrying forward the same idea, the 1946 institute was organized to deal specifically with programs, plans, and problems of organizations dealing with some phase of the home. As the postwar world begins to take shape, the homemakers' problems also are better defined, and their importance is increasingly apparent. To correlate our work with that of other groups and better understand the problems with which we are faced, we invited representatives from the important national women's organizations to meet with us and talk over their policies and their plans for meeting the needs of rural homes. The breadth of viewpoint represented at the institute is seen by a glance at the program listing the speakers and their organizations. Their statements are given in part in these proceedings. The committee in charge of arrangements consisted of Mary Rokahr, chairman, Eunice Heywood, Florence Hall, Madge Reese, Mena Hogan, Clara Bailey, and Mary Louise Collings.

--M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work, United States  
Department of Agriculture.



Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling  
Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics  
United States Department of Agriculture

Research in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in the Federal Government and in the State experiment stations throughout the country will continue, we hope, greatly to aid the program of home demonstration agents. Research workers, have the job of pushing back the frontiers of knowledge and of showing how to apply science to the problems of homemaking. As a result, when home demonstration agents and home economics teachers work with adult groups, or 4-H Clubs, or classes in school, they can have a continually broadening fund of information with which to help families use their resources more and more effectively, and to help in enlarging life, whether in the city or on the farm. This is essential to progress.

The work of the Bureau deals principally with food, clothing, shelter -- those three aspects of living which take the largest amount of time or money from the resources of the family and which are so important in making the right kind of environment for families. Other essential things for which families spend money and devote time are education, recreation, medical care and services, and assistance to others.

With respect to food, clothing, and shelter, the Bureau is concerned with answers to three kinds of questions:

1. What are the basic needs of people -- not only physiological but social and psychological as well? We know, for instance, that there are 40 or more nutritive elements essential to creating the right kind of internal environment. How much of each of these does the human body need to keep it not merely at an average level of well-being but to let it match its highest potentialities as set by heredity? What does the body need in terms of chemical substances that food provides?

2. How do various products compare in their usefulness or economy in filling the basic needs of people? We determine, for example, what different kinds of foods available on the market or home produced have to offer toward satisfying human needs, and how the foods can best be combined to satisfy these needs. We study the effect of processing and storage, among other matters, upon the nutritive value and cost of foods.

3. What are the levels of consumption of various goods and services that are found among different groups? Do the amounts used fully meet the needs of the body, the needs of family living, the needs of community or international well-being? What are the factors affecting consumption levels, such as income, home production program, size and composition of family, and regional and cultural patterns?



The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics has under way some 40 or 50 research projects on various aspects of each of these questions. Take, for instance, the basic human needs for food: We have two research projects in cooperation with two institutions -- one is concerned with the vitamin C or ascorbic acid requirements of teen-age children. That age period is a critical stage, yet we know very little about its needs. The other study deals with the energy expenditures of children. Because children are growing and are very active physically in proportion to their size, they need much more food proportionately than adults -- in fact, it takes a lot more calories per unit of body weight to carry on the same activities. We want to know how much more. We have been studying what activities children 10 to 12 years of age engage in on farm and in cities, and the caloric cost of performing those activities.

To illustrate how each of our three primary questions is related to a general problem: We may study what people need in the terms of vitamin C. We may study which foods will give this nutrient cheaply, attractively, and abundantly so they fit into meal patterns that are characteristic of this country. We may study how different groups of families compare in the amounts they eat of vitamin-C-rich food -- how high- and low-income groups compare, or Southern and Northern groups, and whether these amounts adequately meet needs. Answers to such studies give a measure of the educational program needed to bring the level of consumption as closely in line as possible with what people need.

We try to get results of our research to the public in simple language so that the homemaker and student can understand it. But sometimes an important part of helping families is to help producers get better products on the market. Hence we put our research reports into trade and technical journals so that producers may have the benefit of our knowledge of what people need and want and can afford. Furthermore, much of our research on levels of living is of especial interest to public leaders. Unless leaders know the kind of living different groups are getting, they will not be able to develop adequate public programs -- educational or action.

There are lists available both of the Bureau's popular publications and of the more technical publications for the research worker or advanced student. In addition, we issue about once a month a letter called "Rural Family Living." This goes to each home demonstration agent to help her keep in touch with much current information that will be useful to her in meeting problems.



Discussion of Dr. Stiebeling's Paper

"One of the developments in world society in our day is home economics, looking to the experimental stations and research work in the Department of Agriculture for scientific knowledge bearing upon their problems.

"While we have originally thought of home demonstration work -- and it has been originally considered in the administration of extension work as something being directly related to the farm home, there is unquestionably a growing question -- and I think it is a very healthy one -- and that is why should home demonstration work and home economics work, as we think of it, be confined solely to the rural home? Why isn't this a kind of knowledge and a kind of program that should be available to all homemakers and all homes through a greatly expanded program? The interpretation of the Smith-Lever Act and other basic acts by administrators thus far has been that Congress intended the educational job be applied first to the problems of rural people. But I was personally greatly pleased when a Member of Congress from Connecticut said that she thought the time had come to find ways and means by Congress and the States to extend this teaching to all homes. She felt that home demonstration work was just in its beginning stage, and she hoped the time would not be too far distant when 6 million homes in this country, both rural and city, would be included. This emphasizes the importance of the kind of thing Dr. Stiebeling talked about." -- Director M. L. Wilson.

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Mrs. Roy C. F. Weagly, President  
Associated Women of the American  
Farm Bureau Federation

The Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation, with a membership of approximately 1 million farm families in 45 States and Puerto Rico, will strive even more vigorously than ever before for the accomplishment of the following objectives:

To preserve and protect the inherent values of the home and family -- the foundation of the Nation. The American home is the institution for which our boys have fought and died. Upon the parents in the home rests the responsibility of preserving the traditions that have made America great. The recent world conflict has brought about many new problems in family relationships, management, and income. Parental apathy is proving to be the most fertile ground for the delinquency of youth. Too frequently we have thought of juvenile delinquency as a separate and distinct problem when it is actually the result of adult delinquency. The home is still the basic unit of society, and it is the home where we inculcate the fundamental ideals of character and the customs and traditions of American life.



As the rural home produces the largest percentage of children of the Nation, it becomes the training ground for most of the citizens of our country. No institution has been more affected in the past 3 years than the home. We believe as mothers and homemakers it is our duty to revitalize our homes with faith, courage, and determination to "carry on" with a better understanding, tolerance, and unity. The future of the peoples of the world depends upon the ideals lived in our homes. We recommend to farm women further study of family relations, child training, and parent education in rural communities.

Arthur Moore said: "Better living on the farm is the great unfinished business of American agriculture."

We appreciate what has been accomplished by the Rural Electrification Administration and ask that needed appropriations be continued until rural America has been electrified.

We urge accelerated research in the use of existing electrical lines for telephone communications.

Rural housing improvement not only benefits farm families but offers great opportunity to industry and labor in the fields of manufacture, distribution, and construction. No type of architecture particularly adapted for farm homes has been developed. Very little attention has been paid the woman who is to do the work of keeping the house and preparing the food for the farm family. All too often the larger house with its modern conveniences has not been possible until the family was about ready to leave the home and the new home becomes a burden to those who remain on the farm.

We believe that there should be provided a program for farm home building equivalent to the well-known program available to urban people. Agricultural engineers should include farm women and home management specialists in their work to develop suitable plans for the farm homes of tomorrow.

Our objective is to obtain equality of opportunity for health and education for all people, believing that the Nation as a whole will prosper to the extent to which it provides equal opportunities to all its citizens.

Because of the mobility of our population, the local taxing unit is no longer solely responsible for the health and education of the children living within that unit.

Great numbers of farm people are unable to obtain adequate medical and hospital care for their families, partly because of the inadequacy of facilities and services available to them and partly because the costs are too frequently out of line with the ability to pay.

Now, as never before, the world needs to turn attention to the health and education of children and youth. In the hands of members of the younger generation is the fulfillment of the American ideals, and we shall be committing a grave injustice to them if we fail to



train them to live well-rounded lives. From many countries come inquiries as to what the United States is doing and planning to do for its youth. It is essential that the youth of the Nation be well equipped for a worthy part in the life of tomorrow's world.

We favor an intensive attack on the problems of better medical care for all groups, particularly in rural areas. In general, we favor action on this problem by the voluntary organization of cooperative health and hospital associations, which have already proved their value. We recommend full cooperation with established units, and emphasis on clinic, dental, hospital, surgical, and medical care, immunization, and other preventive measures. We also lend our support to the Federal program for the control of venereal diseases.

To meet the problem of maternal and child care, we favor the continuation of the present plan of administering such services.

To the extent Federal assistance is needed it should be limited to financial grants, without Federal control, to the States on the basis of need, with the local and State governments responsible for performing this function.

For equalizing educational opportunities, we favor reasonable Federal grants-in-aid, to supplement State funds to be allocated in proportion to State needs, dispensed by State boards with adequate agricultural representation and entirely independent of Federal jurisdiction. We favor the maximum amount of local guidance and initiative consistent with operating efficiency and a sound program of education.

To enlist more farm families in the Farm Bureau to insure the permanency of agriculture as an industry, to develop leadership through an active organization, and to teach the individual that he owes a substantial contribution of time, talent, and money to his community, his calling, his posterity, and his fellow men.

In view of the fact that the acceptance of individual responsibility is one of the cornerstones of the democratic process, we are much concerned with the importance of farm people maintaining their leadership in matters of agricultural policy, which can best be safeguarded by a strong, voluntary organization, the nucleus of which is the local or neighborhood group. In this local unit many problems can be discussed and frequently solved. These neighborhood groups furnish a two-way channel for information; to disseminate pertinent information to farm families and to build a program to meet the local needs.

It is our aim to build future citizens by giving inspiration and leadership to boys and girls on the land; by encouraging and supporting 4-H Clubs and rural youth movements conducive to fitting young people for agriculture and preparing them for a satisfying life.

Work with elemental things gives youth a ruggedness and durability greatly needed in our citizenry. Unless this work is en-



couraged and supported by us, the youth of our land will be exposed to those who would seize the opportunity to turn them from the democratic way of life. We appeal to farm women within our respective communities to develop practical and effective services in the befriending and counseling of youth.

We encourage and help members assume responsibilities of citizenship in the community, State, Nation, and the world. We should be fully informed on matters of proposed legislation and its probable impact on the rural home and community life. We urge that rural women study not only their own local legislation but State and national legislation as well. We appreciate our freedoms and right of self-government which can be retained as our forefathers acquired them by diligent effort of every citizen. We recommend the continuance of study groups and legislative forums where they now exist, and the organization of such units in other areas in order that we may be prepared to express our convictions at the proper time and place. The world needs to have us prove the strength of democracy by living it. The right to vote carries with it the obligation to exercise that right, or else let democracy be destroyed from within. Women must be made to realize that they cannot separate their citizenship from the rest of their lives. Christian principles must find expression in all that we do. The hands that rock the cradles belong to 60 percent of the voters in America. Women could, therefore, if they would, determine the future policies of our Nation. We are told that women have a tremendous potential power of which some politicians are afraid.

Cooperation with the Extension Service in carrying out the extension educational program in agriculture and home economics is included among our objectives.

One of the goals of the Associated Women as set forth in the purpose clause is, in part: "to strengthen and support the Extension organization associated with home demonstration work throughout the United States; to serve as a means for the exchange of experience in this field of adult education relating to home and community life. . . ."

As many of you know, the extension program has helped people work together in friendly cooperation for the enrichment of life in the home and the community. It has helped to keep culture in agriculture and has helped to maintain the dignity in homemaking. More women should be encouraged to avail themselves of the splendid opportunities offered by Extension.

We want to continue the study of adequate nutrition which is closely interwoven with the problem of soil fertility. Both of these factors are essential requirements in the achievement of a durable peace. It has long been recognized that the fertility of the soil is the basis for prosperity in agriculture and in the Nation. Unless the soils are rich in life-giving minerals, the diet of the family is lacking in the elements necessary for normal growth and health. Homemakers are, therefore, greatly concerned with programs designed to improve the quality of the soil. We recommend study and discussion of the significant developments now taking place in this field, particularly the fertilizer program of the American Farm Bureau Federation. We encourage the expansion of the school lunch program to serve better the nutritional



needs of all children and to aid in teaching them better food habits.

Many rejections of farm boys in the early days of the draft can be attributed to dietary deficiencies caused by poor dietary habits, depleted soil, indifference, or lack of nutrition education.

We believe that educational programs to improve the nutritional standards of families should be more widely developed to acquaint more people with the understanding of basic food needs. We recommend cooperation with other groups interested in food and nutritional problems.

We support a sound safety program. Loss of life, property, and time, resulting from fire and accident, has become appalling, especially so when they are attributed directly to thoughtless or careless everyday living. We recommend participation in demonstrations and discussions of ways and means to achieve safety in the home, on the farm, and on the highways. We offer our fullest cooperation to the National Safety Council in obtaining and spreading information which will prevent loss of life and property. Both the Associated Women and the American Farm Bureau Federation are cooperating with the President's Highway Safety Conference, which opens tomorrow.

We believe spiritual values are vital to human progress and endeavor to create mutual understanding, promote good will, and develop friendly relations among the various segments of our society as essential to national unity.

If our advancing scientific knowledge is not to prove our undoing, it must be safeguarded with a sense of divine trusteeship and directed toward constructive purposes. One of the most heartening aspects of our time is the new spirit of stewardship manifest among our leading scientists. They are aware that their responsibility is not ended when they have released a new invention. They must be concerned about the uses to which it is put. We shall develop faster planes, mightier machines, and more potent uses of atomic energy. But all this must be accompanied by a comparable development of the inner initiating forces of life -- the spirit, the will, the conscience. We must cultivate a character power able to control our horsepower.

Christian faith will survive only if we, the people, will accept the challenge to preserve it. We urge that our rural families develop a deeper appreciation of spiritual values through larger enrollment in Sunday schools, more liberal financial support, and more zealous cooperation in local church programs. More adequate salaries for better-trained rural ministers and better homes for their families are urgently needed. Recognizing what Christian faith means in everyday living, we pledge our efforts to support actively the rural church.

Building for world peace through broader understanding, exerting every influence to develop ideals of mutual respect and helpfulness, and creating public sentiment on behalf of the ideal of fair play and international good will are included in our program. We support humanitarian programs designed to meet the immediate problem of providing food and clothing for the starving peoples of the world.



We believe our primary responsibility as women and as homemakers is to turn to the task of building the foundations for international peace and security. Unless we can have a world free from the fear of war, our plans for the future welfare of our homes and families will never be realized.

Through these last years we have come to understand as never before that whatever affects the families of the world also affects our own families. We are all now bound together in a great family of nations. We have no alternative except to learn to live together or to destroy each other.

We support wholeheartedly the principles proclaimed in the United Nations Charter and approve the objectives of the United Nations organization. We urge the study and discussion of those proposals in order that we may take effective action realizing those goals.

In order to implement our expression of international good will, we urge the continued support of our organization in making effective the Associated Country Women of the World as an instrument for promoting international understanding.

We also recommend that proper measures be taken for the exchange of students between various countries as a means of promoting our goal, and that courtesies be extended to foreign students while in this country. We believe the immediate problem of providing food and clothing for the starving peoples of Europe is vital; and we give our support to humanitarian programs, both governmental and voluntary, designed to meet these pressing needs.

We realize that the problem of bringing about peaceful relations between nations is fraught with difficulties. We believe, however, that if good will, tolerance, and faith, and a will to find workable solutions, dominate our minds and hearts, we will find ways and means for progressively realizing our objectives for peace. We believe that we must test our hopes for the future by our Christian faith in spiritual power and our Christian belief in the brotherhood of men.

I should like to close with these lines from the pen of Grace Noll Crowell:

"So long as there are homes to which men turn at close of day,  
So long as there are homes where children are, where women stay,  
If love and loyalty, and faith be found across those sills,  
A stricken nation can recover from its gravest ills;  
So long as there are homes where fires burn and there is bread,  
So long as there are homes where lamps are lit and prayers are said,  
Although a people falter through the dark and nations grope,  
With God himself back of these little homes, there still is hope.



## Discussion of Mrs. Weagly's Paper

"You have presented us, Mrs. Weagly, with certainly a very broad and very comprehensive and splendid program, beginning on the one side with the practically materialistic needs of the family and moving over to the spiritual values and the different problems of international relationship and peace in the world, which lie ahead.

"Secretary Anderson has asked me to say for him that he is exceedingly sorry not to be able to listen in on this program, and I am specifically instructed to see that he gets a copy of these proceedings for his evening's reading. He appreciates your being here and said that this institute marked a little of a new era in giving wider recognition to the homemakers and the work they are doing."-- Director M. L. Wilson.

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Mrs. Ora Dykes, Chairman,  
Home Economics Committee, The National Grange

I need not go into the problems of the National Grange, with which you are familiar. I shall deal only with the woman's work of the Grange. First, I want to make it clear we are in cooperation with, not in competition with other organizations. Our program is designed for the purpose of improving and stimulating interest in farm homes and communities. Our program has two main divisions, the first of which is the home. If we could have that one slogan, Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World, talked from every angle in the communities and in our towns, we should be able to accomplish things more readily. Homes are the backbone of civilization. Nations are strong where the wealth of their communities is used to build and sustain homes.

We sometimes place values on the wrong things, but we can't get away from economic security and the fact that we have to have a little money. So we have listed economic security as the first essential to good homes. Economic security -- without it you wouldn't have kitchen conveniences, tractors, all the farm conveniences. I think if there is anything we need to preach from the housetops, it is economic security.

We have listed in the second place hospitalization and health insurance. We don't want to have to resort to mortgages to insure our health. Hospitalization and health insurance come 'way up on the list.

We talk about Home, Sweet Home and sing about it; but if you had to carry a bucket of water up a hill many times a day, you wouldn't get a thrill out of Home, Sweet Home. So we are stressing home conveniences because they play an important part in our life.

I think we need to think about a community in connection with homes. We are recommending more recreation in our communities, for young and old.



Then we stress canning centers to relieve drudgery. I find when I go to the canning center I feel rested and ready to go again, but when I am in the kitchen I get very tired and have difficulty in sleeping at night.

We should also work in cooperation with city groups. We can't stand alone. We recommend that we cooperate with all civic agencies and other agencies that are striving to make the world a better place to live in.

We should support community library projects and encourage the reading of good books and the production of good movies.

I am giving you a few of the things that the National Grange Home Economics Department would like to see accomplished. I should like to leave this one thought -- that a well-ordered household is essential to a happy home, and without a happy home no farm is fully a success.

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Mrs. Mary Jo Uphoff, Department of Education of the  
Farmers' Educational Cooperative Union of America

(Mrs. Uphoff, a farm woman from Wisconsin, made a special effort to attend the institute and represent her organization, which includes active participation of family memberships of more than 400,000 farm families, largely in the Middle West.)

We in the Farmers' Union are not a separate part of the organization; we do not have an auxiliary. I am secretary of the Farmers' Union and am working on some committees. We are interested, as has been shown in all the talks you heard yesterday, in some of the phases of family life that affect us more closely and deeper in our individual lives.

I want to say first of all that our educational system in America is not all it could be. We pride ourselves on the fine job we have done; I admit it is fine and commendable, but I see so many things that could be done, such as better rural schools, more vocational training, and other such things. I hope the time will come when our schools achieve more than they have already achieved. Recently, I heard some eighth-grade boys discussing military conscription in a serious way, not in an adolescent manner. I hope they will have opportunities for vocational training, which has been hitherto denied them.

One of the theories we have to get away from, in education, is that all these boys are being educated to be President or administrators; they really should be educated not as executives, but as workers, day by day on the job. We have to train them for those jobs so that they can make an effort to live a full, abundant life. We have to have Federal finances to do that job.



Then another thing that confronts all of us -- a big job for all people -- is the problem of health and medical care. Some fine things have been done under voluntary and cooperative programs. I am heartily behind the program of the National Farmers' Union to support prepaid medical insurance for all people. I have seen so much misery in my own family, in a community where the only physician is an 80-year-old doctor. It is a constant problem what they will do in illnesses and emergencies.

I am also intensely interested in a program for young people. I worked with the Farmers' Union in such educational programs for a number of years. I did community work and put on one-act plays. We had discussion groups and various activities in this whole program of farm organization. It is surely a big job. I am of the firm belief that we should have children starting at a very young age to consider themselves citizens of the world -- and beginning to understand the three-sided question of producer, consumer, and citizen. I feel, whether we realize it or not, we are standing at the door of a new conception of society. Scientific discoveries are pushing up at this problem, making us world citizens, instead of farm and community citizens.

The Farmers' Union does all it can in State and national organizations to promote better understanding. It is important that we work with the underprivileged to raise their standard of living. During the past 4 or 5 years we have done a tremendous job of production and planning -- more than we had ever done before. We did it quite well. No matter what it did to our personal lives, we accomplished something nationally, to a greater extent than we have ever done before. We can also do the same kind of job in a world of peace, if we are to have a world of peace.

Coming in from Chicago the other day, we passed through the slum districts. I saw children playing; there was no green grass but just railroad tracks. They may be neighbors of my child some day. It is the underprivileged children, living on the wrong side of the track, who may be fellow citizens some day of my own boys and girls. We shall have to erect and build with them in the future; they are all a part of this new world. I think we should make them of special interest in farm organizations and do whatever we can do.

Back of the railroad tracks there are beautiful highways. I thought to myself, whether we like it or not, we are in a world where there are highways and 60-mile-an-hour cars, and yet some are going along in their social thinking down the old dirt road. We must not let pride or prejudice keep us off the bright new avenues. We can't possibly continue to live with dirt-road mentalities and high-powered motor cars.

There is just one more thing I would like to say. I know the Extension program has a Homemakers' Club. I have attended some meetings, and I think it is tremendously important to know how to do the home-making job well. But I believe we have to go out on all these avenues I spoke to you about -- better medical care, better food, better clothing. We have got to teach our boys and girls to grapple with their minds and with the big job that faces them and their children.



## Discussion of Mrs. Uphoff's Paper

In answer to a question on the work with young people Mrs. Uphoff replied:

I will try to point out briefly the way the work is being carried on. They attend local meetings; then there is a league which carries on the work with them. In addition to social and educational meetings they have a program on social subjects that embraces all the important things that are happening. In these meetings of young people are carried on discussions of world peace and world organizations. They study recreation, health, consumers' cooperation, all that broad field. There is a fairly wide chance for development. The young people attend conventions, participate in achievements for national awards, and they work in cooperatives. They work with the credit unions. The cooperatives provide a great deal for young people but not enough to take care of the leadership developed there. Young people have grown up in these organizations and taken dual roles, too; I think that is encouraging. They stay there not because of the wages they get but because there is a job to do.

Question: What is considered a family-size farm?

Answer by Mrs. Uphoff: A family-size farm is hard to define -- in terms of acreage. Generally speaking, the definition of a family-size farm, and I think the Department of Agriculture will agree with me, is a farm that is operated by a family itself, with only seasonal help but not a large staff of paid workers. The family-size farm is a farm on which people live the year around.

Question: Does your organization deal mostly with marketing problems?

Answer, Mrs. Uphoff: The Farmers' Union started in concentrating on the marketing of farm products, cooperative cotton gins in the South, and cooperatives in the Wheat Belt, also in connection with livestock. They work with other cooperative organizations. A recent development is a large number of credit unions and also stores. It affords excellent training in democracy and a great development in character.

Question: Will you define what the ultimate objective of the Farmers' Union is?

Answer by Mrs. Uphoff: I don't want to make it too long. The objective of the Farmers' Union, first of all, is to increase the standard of living for the family-type farmer. We are concentrating on some things that mean better education, better health, better taxation system, family life activities in the community. We get better price premiums on poultry and livestock, and that sort of thing, operating better markets, etc.

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Mrs. Wayne Reiner, President  
National Home Demonstration Council

I should like to begin by telling you something about the resolutions passed at our annual meeting in Columbus last year. I think I shall just read them to you and then go on with the remarks I should like to make.

We recommend: That the high ideals of the rural American home be maintained. That the wise expenditure of savings be immediately emphasized in the postwar period. That a debt-reduction and savings plan be continued. That a well-rounded nutrition program be carried on for developing better rural health. That there be a definite plan for recreation in the home to combat juvenile delinquency. That the study of other countries be promoted to permit a better understanding between nations. That women be encouraged to understand the United Nations Charter in order to understand how it affects us. That we go on record to oppose any strikes that retard the establishment of peace, for which our young men have fought and died.

Those are the resolutions they voted they would use as their theme, but I can see how closely these resolutions fit in with the general pattern. We as home demonstration people felt in the beginning that we could do more as a fellow organization to further the plans of the home demonstration agents and the Extension Service if we were organized, and it is to that end that we have formed a national organization. We might have started out, and we did, many of us, just by learning skills, how we might do a better job of canning, of housekeeping, etc.; but we have gone far beyond that; we are aiding and doing much to deal with the intangibles we have heard about; we are doing our share in public programs and to further what we can in national and international progress everywhere. While we are anxious that all States, as well as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska, become a part of the National Home Demonstration Council, I think we are more concerned with how many people we can reach rather than how many members we can add to our club rolls. It is the job of the home demonstration clubs to help the home demonstration agent in their communities, counties, and States to put that program across. If we do our share in helping them in training lay readers to carry on, I think we have done the best job we can do. It isn't so much that we have learned this thing ourselves; we must pass it on. You know in all communities there are a great number of women who will never belong to your organization, or mine, or any other; and I wish there could be some way we might have some measuring stick whereby we could measure, directly or indirectly, just how many of these people there are.

We like to pass things on that we hear, and I think that is one of the places where we can do our best jobs. Women love to talk, and we can do our best job by passing on the information we have learned through home demonstration work.



To get back to the resolutions for just a moment -- that the high ideals of American rural life be maintained. Those of us who live in rural communities know that the ideals of the rural inhabitants as a whole are high, and they must be maintained. I think that must have been the idea that promoted the beginning of extension work. When we remember that more than a third of the people in the United States are rural people, we must consider that, and we must remember that they have high ideals. We must remember that there is one place where American democracy is practiced more than any other place, and that is the home -- not only in rural homes but in all homes. We like to remember, too, that the future as well as the strength of the Nation is in the soil and in the people who live on the soil and work with the soil; and so the strength of the Nation rests in the rural people.

I think you will find, too, that there is no other group of people who are more consistently patriotic, 365 days in the year, than our rural people. They proved this in the war years just past, and I think they will prove it again and again in the years to come; they will prove it by doing their full share in supplying the starving peoples of the world with food. The rural market is well aware of the part we must play in the world of tomorrow, and I think you will find that rural women are out in front when it comes to being aware of the things that they must do. The responsibility of feeding these hungry nations rests with the women; the responsibility of producing this food rests with the rural people and the people who live on farms. The rural woman was willing during the last war to drive the team, milk the cows, and to do anything that had to be done in order to produce the food that was needed; and I think you will find she will do that again in order to produce the food that will save these other nations from starvation. We know that a well-fed nation is a peaceful nation; and in order to be a well-fed nation we must have people who are willing to produce, people who are willing to share; and the peace of the world depends largely upon what the homes of America are willing to do today.

The women of the National Home Demonstration Council believe in and are working for a well-rounded nutrition program, not only for rural families but for all the peoples of the world; and if we are a well-fed nation and know how to live together in peace and prosperity, we know that women are going to have to play a large part in promoting that peace and prosperity. We at one time had a nutrition specialist whose favorite saying was, "We are what we eat." I wonder if you have ever thought how true that is; and have you thought that if people everywhere could eat the kind of food that makes for well-developed bodies, we will have gone a long way on the road to peace and prosperity. In other words, we can eat ourselves into prosperity. Some of you who have heard Prof. H. E. Babcock make his statements on the ever-normal refrigerator and give his plan for a national food program will remember some of the statements he made. If people eat in the right way, what will happen? There are not enough acres in the United States to feed our people, much less to take care of other nations. It is a big job. I wonder, too, if we have ever stopped to think just what it means to get -- well, let's say a pound of butter onto the table in Washington, D. C. Have you ever stopped to think



of the prosperity that comes about for different people, how many participate in the making of that pound of butter and bringing it to the table? There is a lot more undoubtedly than just milking the cow; the cows have to be fed; the dairy herds have to be housed; the workers have to have tools to work with; and you can go on and on, and if we have a prosperity where everybody does the kind of thing they need to do, there will be no shortages of jobs in this country; and that is the reason I say that we can eat ourselves into prosperity. It isn't enough that we have prosperity and sit back and let someone else take care of it; we must do our share, too, to protect it. We must do everything in our power to keep the homes and the Nation free from debt, and of course that means doing everything we can to help get the Nation out of debt.

If we protect the homes of the Nation, we protect the youth of the Nation; and whether we like it or not, we have to admit that juvenile delinquency has increased alarmingly in the last 5 years. I think, as Mrs. Weagly told you this morning, it isn't juvenile delinquency but parental delinquency; and we must admit it whether we want to or not.

There is a responsibility for the women of this Nation and other nations, the responsibility of keeping alive in the hearts and minds of the youth of this land our democratic principles; and it isn't enough to keep it alive -- we must keep it working. Democracy begins at home but doesn't stop there -- it should not stop there -- the home is the center of the family's existence, but it should never be the circumference.

In order that we may do our part in keeping democracy alive and promoting friendliness and understanding between all people of the world, the women of this land are going to have to occupy an active part in the affairs of this Nation and of the world; so we must begin at home. Women are conspicuous by their absence when political or economic affairs are discussed. The Extension Service was never intended to be a political agency, and far be it from me to suggest such a thing; but the National Home Demonstration Council has supported and will continue to support political and economic issues that affect not only the rural women of the Nation but all women of the Nation.

I know that many of you have heard of the work that has been done by our legislative chairman when the bill affecting home demonstration work of the Nation was being considered last week. She wrote to every Congressman and had a reply from every one of them, and I think that is a record. You will probably be hearing from her again. Not only she but many women in other States did the same thing, and I think you know what the result of that was; and we like to feel we did play our part in that issue.

We must take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the Nation; and if we do, there will be less cause for complaint in the ultimate outcome, not only in the Nation but in the affairs of the world. We are a part of the only international rural women's organization, the Association of Country Women of the World. We believe that if we know people and understand them, we shall like them better.



We believe that understanding will make for cooperation; and if we have cooperation between the women of the different nations, we can do much to promote world peace and world prosperity; and we shall find that we have gone a long way towards promoting world understanding. Women will have to take their full share in the responsibility and, I think, the first steps in promoting world peace and world understanding; and this can only be brought about through better cooperation. We can have a better social, political, and economical world order. Through this and this only can we expect to have a just and a lasting peace.

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Mrs. George E. Calvert, Chairman of Family and Home Life,  
The National Congress of Parents and Teachers

To raise the standard of home and family life is one of the main objectives of the Congress of Parents and Teachers. It is our conviction that the family is the basic unit of society. Accordingly, we maintain our belief in adequate preparation for home and family life in order that the child may develop normally in an atmosphere that fills his need for security, recognition, and intimate response.

The 38 million families of the United States today are developing the personalities that will determine the fate of the larger national and international societies of tomorrow.

Family life is the primary living process within which human personality is shaped.

Our study courses for the year have been based primarily on "The Family Builds the Future" and "The Precious Preschool Years."

We believe that education for family living should cover a wide range of ages beginning with early childhood. It should include the acquisition of information, the building of skills, the development of appreciation on the part of youth and adults which will enable them to realize their highest potentialities as healthy, well-adjusted, all-round members of a family group and of society.

We believe that the school lunch program can be instrumental in promoting better family nutrition, as well as better community health.

As one of the biggest problems confronting wartime America was the rising rate of juvenile delinquency, great stress must be laid on close cooperation among parents, schools, churches, and community welfare agencies. A group of committees, including those of Juvenile Protection, Home and Family Life, School Education, Legislation, Character and Spiritual Education, Mental Hygiene, Social Hygiene, Narcotics Education, and Recreation, worked together on a booklet setting forth a plan of action.

Through its committees, Parent Education and Home and Family Life, the Congress continues its efforts to assure all children a happy home life and understanding parents, so that they may acquire balance and stability and a sense of security.



To compensate for unavoidable disruption in the home, the Congress advocates the expansion of community services for the care of preschool children. When mothers of young children must work, day-care nurseries should be made available. Hundreds of PTA members are serving without pay in such centers all over the country.

If we are to build a society in which all people have an equal chance, we must learn to appreciate, to understand, and to work with others in a way that will be genuinely helpful to them and to us. Therefore, we see the need of cooperation with all the organizations and agencies in building better home and family life.

Realizing that today's children will be the builders of tomorrow's homes, we realize the extreme importance of cooperating through the Extension Institute with other organizations interested in building better homes today for tomorrow. We appreciate the invitation to attend the home demonstration luncheon and to participate in the Extension Institute.

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Mrs. Frederick Weitz,  
The General Federation of Women's Clubs

I am the last speaker. I don't know just how we differ, but it seems to me, as I have been sitting here listening to what you are doing in your various enterprises, that we are doing exactly the same thing, maybe by a little different route, a little different audience, and with people who are not specialists as you are. I tried to make a check to find some reason for doing things in the way we are doing them without being specialists -- and yet after all that isn't true because we are specialists in homemaking and in keeping up and advancing enterprises that make life worth living, either in the community or towns. Most of our clubs are in towns, and most of our problems concern things that are happening in towns. Yet we realize those towns themselves are dependent upon the country that surrounds them, so after all it is one problem. The thing we are trying to do -- I think our main objective -- is the education of the general public. We are an adult educational group. We are sending out from our office to the various study groups material on every subject that concerns the public. We deal with women's clubs which get together regularly to consider what action they can take to reach their goals. Just as an example of that, I remember on the first story of our United Nations, we sent out 52,000 copies about the proposed charter, and we kept up that sort of program all the way through. At our headquarters we have information both for and against most of the legislation being proposed nationally, and as far as international issues are concerned we have discussions of all the new things that come up that are troubling people. We require no one to think a certain way. The board itself thinks as individuals, and no one is required to think as the board thinks; but they try to arrive at a program for the discussion of all these questions.



The women's club movement began, as most of you know, in a peeve because women were not invited to a certain dinner where Charles Dickens was a speaker (they could sit in a balcony and hear the speakers, that was all). Some of the learned women decided they would have a club of their own and have it exclusively a women's club, and having begun in a peeve it stuck. It has been just about as hard to do away with the rivalries that existed in the world among women as it has been with men and women in programs of education. We have 16,500 clubs -- maybe a few more. That is our global figure. In that membership there are something like 2,500,000 who are at work under the department heads that we have in our organization, which are the American Home, Fine Arts, Education, Legislation, and several others; and the way that is done -- we have a national chairman, and then under this chairman each individual club has a chairman -- so that we do have that tie-up with each individual club. One of the services we try to give to the public is to send out what we call a big mailing for the various Government bureaus of information. The last big mailing we sent out included all the pamphlets that the Veterans' Committee wished to be sent out. That is the way we use our club dues.

Then we take up the little individual things everybody loves, in our Fine Arts Department. Why have a Fine Arts Department when there are so many practical things that need attention? Because we find that in the encouragement of the fine arts and the improvement and decoration of our buildings there is much satisfaction. A beautiful auditorium or library or a mural in a public building provides much satisfaction for the hunger that young people have for the beautiful. We try to provide those because we know they are just as necessary as practical things. We have encouraged community music. We have tried to change bandstands to band shells. We try to help people enjoy themselves and keep in touch with new developments. A music encyclopedia is one example of this. We have been accused of being smug. My young daughter called me down the other day, as only daughters can. I had just picked out a new hat. She looked at me with a critical air. I said, "Well, speak up" -- we have 40,000 chairmen encouraging independent speaking and expression, and I try to practice what I preach. She said, "Looks like the meeting will now come to order."

If we do nothing more than disturb this fixed organization, we shall be adding to our interest in grown-up people.

Most of the programs in our club are now public forums, and men and women of opinion and of experience discuss matters before the club. We run things by our own independent thinking. Talking about club programs to a woman who is very active in that type of work, I said that we sounded like Browning Clubs. I said, "Haven't we outgrown such clubs?" She replied that anybody who had spent a little time studying Browning or Shakespeare would be much more likely to have the bandstand painted.

We have tried to raise the general sights and standards of everybody with all the advantages we can possibly offer, so that these people may be the first ones to do away with the ugliness of living. Even though we aren't running farms, we are adding to the education of the world; we are promoting as far as we can the way to a fuller life. We hope to keep up the hopes you are making for the betterment of living in the rural communities. We are in quite close touch with your work, and we shall be



glad to distribute your material. We have this great youth conservation program in our different activities. We don't call it juvenile delinquency; we call it "youth conservation." I don't believe we are the first in the field or the only ones, but we are doing it in this way: We have this enormous number of members all over the country. Where there is a need we will step in. We are serving large towns in every community; it is amazing the way our activities have grown. Where there is a lack we will undertake to fill it, but we will not take the place of any agency which is already set up; we will not attempt to do that, but we will support those that are already established.

What we put into motion reflects itself in the individual communities, and we know that we are accomplishing something, at least for juveniles. We have established already in the last year and a half 500 youth centers over the different communities. Our local clubs have worked out the plans. They go to the various national officers and say: "This is what we would like to do. Will you approve it? We will see that it is done."

We are sending out material on both sides of every question. For example, we are now sending out in our magazines, published monthly, both sides of the military service question. We have a strong legislative committee that is keeping us in touch with what is going on nationally, and we try to reflect these activities so that every woman will be a thinker and a good citizen.

In "The American Home" number of our magazine there is an article on reading in the home and another on "Skillful Spending and Systematic Savings," and "An Eternal Anchor," by Lucy J. Dickinson. Mrs. Dickinson took the American home for her theme during her presidency. She is a native of New England and a graduate of Mount Holyoke. She is the only small-town woman that ever reached the presidency. Here is an article "Antiques for Modern Homes." In our conversation problem we have "Wood in the Home," which relates to the planting of trees.

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#### Closing Remarks

In closing the institute, Director Wilson said: "I am sure this marks another millpost in this kind of development. It has brought you people together with us, and I am sure that it will be mutually beneficial. I hope that Home Demonstration Week will become a permanent activity and that each one will begin with such a conference. From year to year it will grow in importance and influence. A report will go out from this conference to all home demonstration agents and extension agents. Extension work started with the work of the county agent, dealing with the farm and the problems of production on the farm; then expanded to include the farm home and farm youth, each with its specific program. As the years have gone on, we have developed what we have learned by experience; we have begun to be conscious of a new phase in extension work which we call the family approach, because of the way people live. The



way of life in the country, the way farm families live, and their community life is a really much more interrelated than life in the city. Therefore, we think more and more in terms of a unified program in which there may be special phases that embrace the farm and its fields and livestock, or certain phases of food preparation and preservation in connection with management of the home. However, many of its phases have to do with the development of the family and of the children, and these things, in a democratic, Christian family are the concern of all the members of the family and not just the concern of the woman or of the man. Therefore, I feel certain that the county agents, as well as the county 4-H Club agents, with their aspects and approaches, will become more and more interested and concerned with what you have been doing. I was glad to have it pointed out by the representatives of both the Parent-Teacher Congress and the women's clubs that you are both promoting the kind of forums and kind of educational activities which bring together men and women for discussion and consideration of these problems."